



CREA

Coordinated Response to Elder Abuse
Memphis and Shelby County

Care to Connect

Have you noticed that the lights are now always off even at night in your elderly neighbor's house? Does your home health patient have enough food in her house? The signs of elder abuse may be subtle, but the abuse or neglect of adults over 60 years of age is more common than you think.

Although Tennessee law requires residents to report any suspicion of elder abuse or neglect, the reality is most cases go unreported. In Memphis and Shelby County, the Family Safety Center is making a difference through the Coordinated Response to Elder Abuse (CREA).

Social or geographic isolation places older adults at risk for abuse or neglect. Whether you connect with older adults through your church, a volunteer organization, or while walking your dog through the neighborhood, you can help authorities identify dangerous situations and intervene. Stay connected:

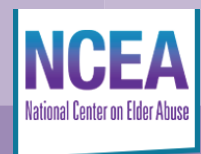
- Listen to older adults or others discussing the experience or suspicion of abuse;
- Don't discount an individual's claim simply because of a cognitive impairment or forgetfulness;
- Watch for indicators of abuse and behavior changes; and
- Ask questions!

Questions YOU Can Ask

- Do you feel safe? Is anyone hurting you or scaring you?
- Is anyone asking you to do things that you do not understand or that make you feel uncomfortable?
- Has anyone taken things that belong to you without asking, or without your approval?
- Do you rely on anyone else for help? What kind of help? Does that person ever fail to help you?
- Do you regularly see friends and family? When is the last time you saw them?
- Do friends and family visit you?
- Are you being disrespected?
- Are you concerned about your finances?
- Are you afraid of anyone in your life?



Ask privately in an area where you will not be overheard.



Source: National Council
on Elder Abuse

Signs of Elder Abuse

Emotional & Behavioral Signs

- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep
- Fear or anxiety
- Depression or isolation

Physical Signs

- Broken bones, bruises, cuts, sores or burns
- Untreated bed sores
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Sexually transmitted diseases without explanations
- Dirtiness, poor nutrition or dehydration
- Poor living conditions
- Lack of medical aids (walker, hearing aid, etc.)

Financial Signs

- Unusual changes in bank account or money management
- Unusual changes in a will or financial documents
- Unpaid bills

SEE IT. REPORT IT. PREVENT IT.

If you suspect elder abuse, report it today. Call TN Adult Protective Services at 888-277-8366.

To contact CREA, which connects older adults with the resources they need to be safe and independent, call the Family Safety Center at 901-222-4400.

We know victims want the abuse to end, nonetheless, elder victims may maintain a relationship with an abuser because of:

Hope...

that their situation will improve

Fear...

of retaliation, facility placement, health complications loss of economic resources, loss of relationship with relatives

Love...

for the abuser, who may be child or other relative, close friend, or caregiver



Family Safety Center
1750 Madison Ave.
Memphis, TN 38104
901.222.4400

www.familysafetycenter.org/how-we-help/CREA

